



4th Grade News

St. Gabriel
Neenah, WI

May, 2010

Mission Statement: Centered in Jesus, St. Gabriel School is committed to excellence in developing our faith, academics, and services. (Revised, 2008)

Religion

The month of May was the perfect time to learn about several saints to whom Mary appeared. We discussed how our Church honors Mary in celebrating her feasts and in praying the rosary. Our next focus of study centered on our call to serve others. It is through our Baptism we share in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. We discussed the countless ways our school community served others this past year and how we can serve others through the summer months. Yes, Jesus calls us to be "light to the world."

Language Arts

Our grammar study has focused on identifying pronouns and using them in sentences. We can also differentiate between subject and object pronouns. Prepositions and prepositional phrases will be our next area of concentration. Our pet rocks have arrived and have been adopted by us! We are currently making certificates of adoption for them to make it official! Another activity is for all of our *pets* to be sitting together on a table, and we will try to identify each other's by reading the rocks' self

Reading

In reading class the fourth graders read expository nonfiction, realistic fiction, a biography, and a narrative nonfiction. Through these writings a variety of skills were developed: main idea and supporting details, steps in a process, fact and opinion, and text structure. Vocabulary is developed through each of these selections. Comprehension is always an important focus as we read our stories. Remember that your child can always orally reread the stories at home at night and receive an auction ticket!

Math

Continuing our study of geometry, fourth graders found the perimeters and areas of rectangles and squares. In problem solving, they had to decide which formula to use. In reviewing all the new terminology, students created their own VOCAB bingo card before playing bingo with words and definitions. We then turned our attention to the understanding of fractions by using fraction strips and diagrams. Students learned how to find equivalent fractions and fractions in simplest form. Next, we compared and ordered fractions, found a fractional part of a number, and solved word problems involving fractions.

Science

Rat River. In preparing for our field trip to Rat River, the students studied the different kinds of soil and what makes up soil. Rocks and earth materials were reviewed. Science fair projects were shared. They were awesome. Weather and climate were studied. We made a poster on the different kinds of clouds. We are finishing up science with an introduction to the solar system. It has been a busy month.

Social Studies

In our study of United States geography we learned about the northeastern states and are now starting the southern states. Our state projects are coming along nicely, and we will share them with our classmates next week. They are in the forms of videos, booklets, and posters. In our study of Wisconsin, we learned about Native American burial sites called effigy mounds. These are above ground and are usually in the shape of animals. To enhance this study we were treated to some slides of an archeological dig sponsored by the Historical Society of Illinois.